by the Atomic Energy Department which was diverted by that firm subsequently to Pakistan if so, the quantity which was sold and the terms and conditions of the sale;

(b) what were the reasons for the sale;

(c) the reasons for which no track was kept about the sold material; and

(d) whether any enquiry was made or is being made by Government into the matter if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad had exported about 2.2 mertic tonnes of zircatoy tubes, rods and strips during 1983—85 in response to a request by M|s. NTG Nukleartechnik (GmbH (NTG) of Federal Republic of Germany. The decision of export such a quantity of Zircaloy was taken to prove acceptability of NFC Zircaloy products in the International market and to earn some foreign exchange. In the telex order for Zircaloy materials, NTC has stated that they were required for use in certain irridiation tests and had indicated that the supplied Zircaloy would not be resold

(d) The Government is awaiting clarifications from NTG regarding reports of diversion of Indian supplied Zircaloy to Pakistan.

**Advisory group on capital goods**

1788. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advisory group on capital goods industry, headed by Mr. Mantosh Sodhi, in final report to the Planning Commission has come out strongly against imports of capital goods equipment under Tied-up Aids if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) what is Government's recation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI: (a) The Advisory Group on Capital Goods Industry headed by Shri Mantosh Sondhi have recommended that to the extent possible, imports of equipment available indigenously should be avoided under "Tied-aid". Further, while tied aid cannot be wholly avoided, efforts should be made to use such aid for the import of components and for balancing equipment rather than the entire package of equipment for a project.

(b) The Planning Commission agrees with this approach.

**Experiments carried out in the sphere of fusion research**

1789. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of major achievement made by Prof. K.S.V. Sauthanam of TIFR, Bombay having repeated the experiment carried out in the west in the sphere of fusion research in the energy hunt; if so, what assistance Government contemplate for expanding the research on it;

(b) what is the scope and significance of this research achievement;

(c) whether nuclear fusion can be obtained through this method; and

(d) whether Government contemplates any steps to get off the laboratory bench for its production scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE

(SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Dr. Fleischmanu and Dr. Pons have recently announced results of their experiments relating to cold fusion using palladium as cathode and platinum as anode and lithium chloride in heavy water as electrolyte. Prof. K.S.V. Santhanam of the TIFR has repeated the experiments in a modified electrolytic cell using titanium as cathode and platinum as the anode. Experiments of Prof. Santhanam have *prima facie* indicated a net energy yield in the Cell. Other scientists in the DAE, in BARC as well as in IGCAR are also working on this subject. In some of the experiments release of neutrons has been obsereved. Experiments carried out so far are of a preliminary nature and more work is being planned.

(b) and (c) The scope of this research is to produce power by passing an electric current through the cell. If ultimately results show that it is possible to achieve fusion of heavy hydrogen, it could provide a possibility of generation of power. There are however many technical problems to be solved and economic aspects to be considered before power generation can become a reality.

(d) It is premature to speculate on production of power using this process. However research programmes are being planned.

**Dumping of nuclear waste by U.S. ships**

1790. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alert had been sounded in territorial waters along Kerala coast to look out for two U.S. ships which were reported by planning to dump dangerous nuclear toxic waste including reaction hazard materials In Indian ocean; and

(b) if so, what were the developments and out-come of efforts made if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) According to the information gathered from the Coast Guard authorities, Cochin, they had received an alart from the Surface Transport Department. So far no such ship has been signed.

**Adulteration of Food stuffs and other consumer articles**

1791. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 11th March, 1989 under the caption 'That deceptive shine on red chillies' regarding large scale adulteration of food-stuffs and other consumer articles going on in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States|U.T.s have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil to ensure quality of food-stuffs by drawing more number of samples and to strengthen their Prevension of Food Adulteration enforcement machineries.